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CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan | May 30, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- to provide an authentic learning resource for both learners and instructors

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys



Natasha Frakes

*Voice of Learning
English, CBC Calgary*

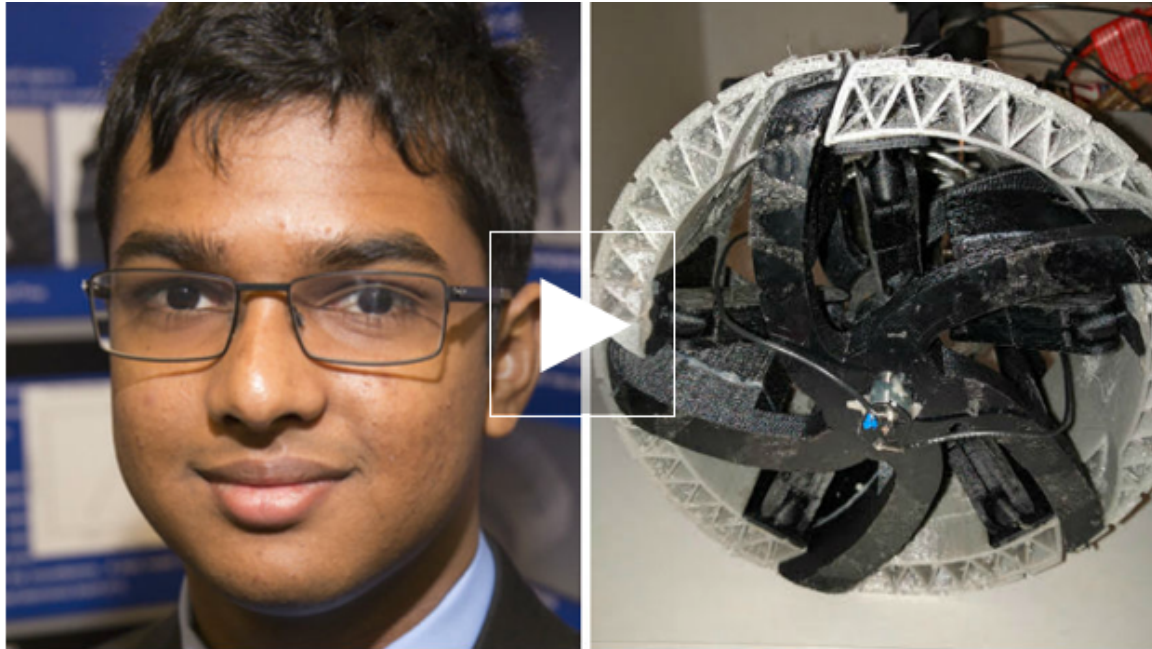


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NEWSCAST 1 CALGARY TEEN REINVENTS THE WHEEL



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-adaptive-wheels-pentagram-science-fair-1.3599930>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 4/5 or equivalent

WARM UP: To *reinvent the wheel* is an expression used in English when someone duplicates or does something that has already been done by others. However, in this story, this boy has invented a new type of wheel that does not exist.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 0:10): Listen to the newscast. While you listen, follow along with the script below. Underline the words you do not understand.

A Calgary student has **literally reinvented** the wheel, and it's **paid off** in the form of a university entrance **scholarship**.

Tahmid Khan, a Grade 10 student at Sir Winston Churchill High School, won a **gold medal** at the 2016 **Canada Wide Science Fair** in Montreal for his "**Adaptive Wheels**" project. With that comes a \$4,000 **scholarship** to Western University.

The **star-shaped** wheels are able to adjust to **varying terrain** and can change back into **circular** tires on **paved** roads.

Khan said he was inspired after he saw his dad's car constantly **getting stuck** in the snow and that engineering is his **passion**.

He sees science as a **solution** to many of our problems, and really wants to **invest** his time in it.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the words used in the story and their meanings below.

literally	actually When I told him I literally never wanted to see him again, I meant it.
reinvented	changed something so it appears to be something new The chef reinvented a classic dish by adding different spices.
paid off	resulted in benefits I hope all of my hard work pays off in the future.
a gold medal	a first place award He received a gold medal for winning the race.
Canada Wide Science Fair	a national science competition He entered his school project in the Canada Wide Science Fair .
adaptive	changing; flexible The company is only interested in adaptive people.
scholarship	a payment made to support a student's education He received a \$4,000 scholarship when he was in university.
star-shaped	shaped like a star The cookies she made were star-shaped .
circular	round Wheels move in a circular motion.
paved	roads or sidewalks that are covered with concrete or asphalt. The highway was paved recently. It is a nice drive.
varying	changing Gas prices are varying these days.
terrain	land; ground We hiked on rocky terrain .
get stuck	unable to move He often gets stuck in the snow with his car. He needs winter tires.
passion	desire; a strong interest in something Dancing is her passion .
solution	the answer to a problem Money is not the solution for all problems.
invest	put in; spend time, effort, energy into something with the hope it will become worthwhile He invested all of his time into his company.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast again.

If you are looking for a challenge, click play on the photo and watch the video.

NEWSCAST 2

MORE PEOPLE TRYING TO CROSS MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN GOOD WEATHER



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/migrant-boat-capsize-1.3600999>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP: Look at the title and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY: Review the following words used in the news story.

1. migrant (adjective) – travelling
2. migrant (noun) – immigrant; traveler
3. sank (verb; past tense) – went under water
4. rescued (verb; past tense) - saved
5. spotted (verb; past tense) – seen
6. dinghy (noun) – a small boat like the one in the picture above
7. submerged (verb; past tense) – went under water
8. vessels (noun; plural form) – large boats or ships
9. smugglers (noun; plural form) – people who move people or products illegally in or out of a country
10. untrustworthy (adjective) – not able to be relied on; unreliable

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 1:23)

Listen to the newscast. While you listen, take notes. Listen again if needed.

If you are in a classroom, share the details you understood with a partner.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 1:23)

Listen to the newscast again. This time, answer the questions below while you listen.

1. What happened to the migrant boat?
2. How many people were rescued on this boat?
3. How many people were spotted in the sea?
4. Why were the migrants waving their arms?
5. What were the migrants not wearing?
6. Who (or what) showed up at the scene?
7. On busy days, how many people do crews typically rescue in a single day?
8. What did smugglers take advantage of?

(See script and/or answer key)

CONCLUSION

What do you think of this story? Discuss with a friend or a colleague.

NEWSCAST 3: QUEBEC-BORN WOMAN REUNITES WITH BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AFTER 26-YEAR SEARCH



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/adoption-quebec-records-sealed-1.3597592>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) 5 or equivalent

WARM UP

Look at the title and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio clip 2:35)

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension. Take notes below if you wish.

If you are in a classroom, share the details you understood with a partner after listening to the story.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio clip 2:35)

Now listen to the newscast again. While you listen, answer as many questions below as you can. It is a good idea to review the questions before you listen so you know what details to listen for. Listen twice if needed.

1. Who is Jo-Ann Hatting looking for?
2. Where and when was Jo-Ann Hatting born?
3. When was she adopted?
4. How long has it taken for Jo-Ann Hatting to find her biological mother?
5. What kind of information is provided to adoptees in Quebec?
6. What details did Jo-Ann Hatting learn about her mother?
7. What was a taboo subject in the 1950s?
8. When did birth control become legal in Canada?
9. How old is Jo-Ann now and how old is her mother?
10. How does Jo-Ann feel now that she has found her mother?

READING ACTIVITY 1

Part A: Read the script below to check your answers.

When Jo-Ann Hatting began searching for her biological mother she only knew she was born in a Montreal hospital on January 18th, 1957, and adopted seven days later. She had no idea the journey to find her mother would take 26 years.

British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador have changed their laws to make it easier for adoptees and birth parents to access birth records. But in Quebec, adoptees are only entitled to "non-identifying information," such as the age of the birth parents and their reason for putting the child up for adoption.

The "secret" Hatting uncovered begins with a young woman named Lorna Gauley. The single, 19-year-old was working as a nanny for a doctor in Montreal when she became pregnant in 1954. Like so many other young unmarried women in the 1950s, Gauley gave her baby up for adoption.

Premarital sex was a taboo subject at that time and birth control didn't become legal in Canada until 1969.

Hatting, 59, says meeting her 81-year-old mother has brought her full circle. She says, "It has been very, very joyful. I'm much more at peace within myself now that I have seen her. Everyone should know where they're from".

Part B. Now read the script again. Underline any words you do not know. Look up their meanings.

CONCLUSION:

Do you think people should be able to look up their biological parents? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons of doing this in your opinion?

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

N/A

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

MORE PEOPLE TRYING TO CROSS MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN GOOD WEATHER

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

1. What happened to the migrant boat?
It sank off the coast of Libya.
2. How many people were rescued on this boat?
88
3. How many people were spotted in the sea?
20
4. Why were the migrants waving their arms?
An airplane flew over them and they wanted to be saved.
5. What were the migrants not wearing?
Life jackets
6. Who (or what) showed up at the scene?
Italian coast guards / Two Italian coast guard vessels arrived at the scene.
7. On busy days, how many people do crews typically rescue in a single day?
2,500
8. What did smugglers take advantage of?
They took advantage of the calm sea and warm weather.
Some may also say they take advantage of the migrants.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

QUEBEC-BORN WOMAN REUNITES WITH BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AFTER 26-YEAR SEARCH

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

1. Who is Jo-Ann Hatting looking for?
Her biological mother
2. Where and when was Jo-Ann Hatting born?
She was born in a Montreal hospital on January 18th, 1957.
3. When was she adopted?
7 days after she was born
4. How long has it taken for Jo-Ann Hatting to find her biological mother?
26 years
5. What kind of information is provided to adoptees in Quebec?
In Quebec, adoptees are only entitled to "non-identifying information," such as the age of the birth parents and their reason for putting the child up for adoption.
6. What details did Jo-Ann Hatting learn about her mother?
She learned that her mother was a single, 19-year-old working as a nanny for a doctor in Montreal when she became pregnant in 1954.
7. What was a taboo subject in the 1950s?
Premarital sex (sex before marriage)
8. When did birth control become legal in Canada?
1969
9. How old is Jo-Ann now and how old is her mother?
59 / 81
10. How does Jo-Ann feel now that she has found her mother?
She is happy and at peace now.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
INTRODUCTION	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 29th.	0:00
NEWSCAST 1 CALGARY TEEN REINVENTS THE WHEEL Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-adaptive-wheels-pentagram-science-fair-1.3599930 CLB: 4/5	<p>A Calgary student has literally reinvented the wheel, and it's paid off in the form of a university entrance scholarship.</p> <p>Tahmid Khan, a Grade 10 student at Sir Winston Churchill High School, won a gold medal at the 2016 Canada Wide Science Fair in Montreal for his "Adaptive Wheels" project. With that comes a \$4,000 scholarship to Western University.</p> <p>The star-shaped wheels are able to adjust to varying terrain and can change back into circular tires on paved roads.</p> <p>Khan said he was inspired after he saw his dad's car constantly getting stuck in the snow and that engineering is his passion.</p> <p>He sees science as a solution to many of our problems, and really wants to invest his time in it.</p>	0:10
NEWSCAST 2 MORE PEOPLE TRYING TO CROSS MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN GOOD WEATHER Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/migrant-boat-capsize-1.3600999 CLB: 4/5	<p>A migrant boat sank off Libya's coast last week. Officials said 88 people have been rescued while another 20 bodies were spotted in the sea.</p> <p>Photos taken by a European Union aircraft showed a bright blue dinghy submerged under the weight of migrants waving their arms hoping for rescue. None of them had a life jacket.</p> <p>Two Italian coast guard vessels arrived at the scene. The Italian Coast Guard Commander Nicastro said there were 20 other operations underway on that same day, with 1,000 people rescued. During busy days, crews rescue up to 2,500 people in a single day.</p> <p>Smugglers seemed to take advantage of the calm sea and the warm weather to pack people into untrustworthy boats for the trip to Europe.</p>	1:23

<p>NEWSCAST 3</p> <p>QUEBEC-BORN WOMAN REUNITES WITH BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AFTER 26-YEAR SEARCH</p> <p>Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/adoption-quebec-records-sealed-1.3597592</p> <p>CLB: 5</p>	<p>When Jo-Ann Hatting began searching for her biological mother she only knew she was born in a Montreal hospital on January 18th, 1957, and adopted seven days later.</p> <p>She had no idea the journey to find her mother would take 26 years.</p> <p>British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador have changed their laws to make it easier for adoptees and birth parents to access birth records. But in Quebec, adoptees are only entitled to "non-identifying information," such as the age of the birth parents and their reason for putting the child up for adoption.</p> <p>The "secret" Hatting uncovered begins with a young woman named Lorna Gauley. The single, 19-year-old was working as a nanny for a doctor in Montreal when she became pregnant in 1954. Like so many other young unmarried women in the 1950s, Gauley gave her baby up for adoption.</p> <p>Premarital sex was a taboo subject at that time and birth control didn't become legal in Canada until 1969.</p> <p>Hatting, 59, says meeting her 81-year-old mother has brought her full circle. She says, "It has been very, very joyful. I'm much more at peace within myself now that I have seen her. Everyone should know where they're from".</p>	<p>2:35</p>
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